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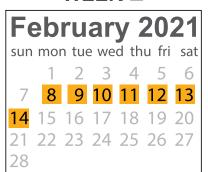
Michigan Celebrates

## **AFRICANAMERICANHISTORYMONTH**

with Literature



## WEEK 2



The Michigan Department of Education and the Library of Michigan are excited to showcase African American authors and their literary works each week during the month of February in celebration of African American History Month. Seven authors and their works are featured and were selected from nominations submitted by educators for use by educators.

Student literacy increases powerfully as students see themselves (mirrors) and others (windows) portrayed accurately in their reading as presented in the work of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop. By raising the consciousness about great African American authors from educators to educators and by lifting up African American authors and their works, we seek to create conditions for greater engagement with literature among Michigan students.

#### **February**

80

### **Ghost Boys**

Jewell Parker Rhodes

Age: 9-12 years Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 978-0316262262

Awards: ALA Notable Children's

Books - Older Readers

Category: 2019

Walter Dean Myers Awards for Outstanding Children's Literature

YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers: 2019 **Nominator:** Jolie Valentine

**School/District/Institution:** Field Elementary School/Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

"Students think about and wrestle with issues like police shootings and race relations, and they talk to each other about these issues. This story allows students to explore the topics in a safe way, in the context of a 'ghost' story that immediately grabs the attention of middle-grade readers. This book tackles one of the toughest debates of our age in a nuanced and page-turning way for our students."







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#### **February**

09

### **All American Boys**

Jason Reynolds

Age: Teen
Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 978-1481463348

**Awards:** Coretta Scott King Author Honor book: 2016 School Library Journal Best

Books: 2015

Thumbs Up! Award (Michigan)

Nominator: Genevieve Minor

**School/District/Institution:** Traverse City West Senior High School/Traverse City Area Public

**Schools** 

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

"I use this book for a book talk with my students and when I visit classes as students are selecting a free choice book. My school is predominately White and their experience with other races and cultures is limited. This book helps students understand multiple perspectives, explore the complexity of racial relations with police and the influence of social media, and build empathy."

#### **February**

10

#### **Hair Like Mine**

LaTashia Perry

**Age:** 0-8 years **Genre:** Fiction

ISBN: 978-0986237973

Nominator: Starletta Rett-Henry

**School/District/Institution:** Brendel Elementary/Grand Blanc Schools

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

"I have used this text to encourage rhyming and story elements. I have also utilized this text to empower students through a series of

self-identity texts."

#### **February**

11

#### The Piano Lesson

**August Wilson** 

Age: Teen

Genre: Drama

ISBN: 978-1442495012

Awards: 1990 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play 1990 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play

1990 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Nominator: Gregory Dykhouse

School/District/Institution: Black River Public

School/Black River Elementary School

### Incorporation in Curriculum:

"Wilson's body of dramatic works depicts life for African Americans during various decades of the early twentieth century. This work is set in Pittsburgh during the 1930s. Brother and sister argue over what to do with a piano that has been in the family for many generations, since slavery, which I use to teach students the larger challenge of understanding our past."

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#### **February**

12

#### IA: Initiate

John Darryl Winston

Age: Teen

Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 978-1946006363

**Nominator:** Glynis Flowers

**School/District/Institution:** Golightly Education Center/Detroit Public Schools Community District

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

"The students read this book as a means to build self-discipline and self-esteem in the pre-teen age."

#### **February**

13

#### **Counting Descent**

Clint Smith

Age: Teen

Genre: Poetry

ISBN: 978-1938912658

**Awards:** Winner, 2017 Black Caucus of the American Library Association Literary Award

Finalist, 2017 NAACP Image

**Awards** 

'One Book One New Orleans'

2017 Book Selection

Nominator: Annette Christiansen

School/District/Institution: Stevenson High

School/Utica Community Schools

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

"Clint Smith is one of the 'Living Poets' my Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition students study. He has an excellent voice and speaks to issues that face us as humans. He constantly wins our 'March Madness' bracket competition that pits poems against each other and the 'best' as selected by students advances."

#### **February**

14

## **Bud, Not Buddy**

**Christopher Paul Curtis** 

Age: 9-12 years Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 978-0439402002

**Awards:** ALA Notable Children's Books: 2000 Coretta Scott King Award

(Authors): 2000

Newbery Medal Winner: 2000

Nominator: Angela Moore

**School/District/Institution:** Commonwealth Community Development Academy PSA

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

"Bud, Not Buddy helped to integrate reading with social studies and economics to study The Great Depression Era. It inspired a love

for reading."

Thank you to all the Michigan Pre-K-12 educators who nominated African American authors and their literary works as well as how they used them with their students. Look for our next set of titles on Friday, February 12, 2021.